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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Intermediate School in Petržalka
2. University in Bratislava

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a report dealing with an intermediate school in Petržalka and the University in Bratislava. Various aspects of education and student life are discussed in the report.

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May 1958- Intermediate School of PETRZALKA, south of BRATISLAVA

SUBORGANIZATION:

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The school comes under the "Department for Schools and Education", which is part of the NARODNI VYBOR (National Committee), which is entrusted with the internal civic administration.

Among other departments under the NARODNI VYBOR are the financial department, those of public health, communications, road maintenance, etc...

The School Administration Board is composed of three persons, of whom:

the Director: Jan BELAN - professor of Slovak language and literature,

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Vice Director: PETROVIC - an instructor (not a professor)

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Vice Director: KUKLIS -

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The Teaching Staff is composed of approximately 35 persons, including both professors and instructors. It is one of the best camouflaged, exclusive circles, in which each person may lead his own life without being obliged to disclose his own ideas or his own political sentiments. Party membership is not obligatory

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Organization: The school program is based on 11 years of study, of which only the first 8 are obligatory for all the young people.

During this period, as well as during the subsequent, more demanding terms at the universities, students do not have to pay tuition and are only required to procure their own text books.

Upon completion of the 11th year of the higher intermediate school, those who desire to continue their studies may enter polytechnical institutes or universities.

Facilities and "internati" (student residences).

Young people in attendance during the last three years of the intermediate school or at the university, if residents of non-urban centers or members of families with incomes which do not exceed a certain figure (in general, 1,500 crowns), are assisted by the State, which has established, in every city, a certain number of student residences called "internati," where the students may obtain assistance, food, and lodging.

If the above-mentioned unfavorable economic circumstances exist, the expenses are not charged to the student. For each deserving or needy student, the State pays up to a maximum of 350 crowns per month. But even in that case, which is the most favorable, the parents must pay for the text books themselves.

The measure of state aid is fixed in accordance with a certain equitable scale, which, nevertheless, does not prevent the bad habit, widespread in all the national fields, of favoring the sons of the best qualified Communists.

The internati in Bratislava are few and almost all overcrowded. Some of them even house 2,000 students, who sleep in double wooden beds.

Enrollment.

The school in PETRZALKA is attended by 1,100 students. The pupils in grades 5,6,7, and 8 are divided into two shifts, a morning and an afternoon shift, for lack of rooms. Actually, the school was built only 2 years ago, and has not yet been completed.

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Military Instruction.

This course is only for the three upper classes (9 - 11 inclusive).
The program provides for only one hour of instruction per week.

Laboratories and Special Rooms.

Because of the recent construction of the school, no laboratories or special rooms have been set up yet.

Libraries.

There is one in the instructors' room, for their exclusive use.

Text books.

These reflect the particular political climate by which they were inspired.

Political Sentiments of the Students.

The students are influenced more by the political climate existing in the families to which they belong than by the subtle and little emphasized propaganda directed at them in the school.

Cultural Societies.

The only one in town is the SOVETSKA KNIHA (Soviet Book), which sells cultural Soviet texts at reasonable prices. It is located on the street which leads from the Stalin Square to the Central Station.

Cultural Exchanges.

These are organized by the CSM "Czechoslovak Youth Associations," and are logically oriented toward similar organizations in the other satellites.

Student Press.

The daily "SMENA", (Exchange) published by the CSM, is a newspaper addressed to all young, whether they are students or not.

Student Performances.

The dance performances and the various choirs which are organized are not staged and produced by students alone. They are rather activities of the CSM members.

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Relations Between the Two Sexes are marked by a liberal character, especially in the University of Bratislava and in the higher schools.

Voluntary Work Brigades were abolished in 1956, after the various experiments conducted demonstrated that the damage caused by the technical incapacity of the young people was greater than the estimated or registered gains.

Reflections of Westernization.

Any timid attempt at imitating the West is promptly prohibited. Rock and roll is not tolerated.

Paramilitary Sports Associations.

The only one in existence is the SVAZARM, a name which is derived from the two words, ^{SVAZ} ~~SVAZ~~ and ^{ARMADA} ~~ARMADA~~, in other words: a military association. This is an autonomous organization, but one which is influenced and controlled by the Party.

Membership is not obligatory. Young supporters may choose to frequent any one or more ^{courses offered by} ~~of the available organizations of~~ the association. They include, among others, ^{courses} ~~organizations~~ for glider pilots, radio technicians, parachutists, etc.

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The Professors' Salaries.

Gross: 1,350; net: 1,150.

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School Lunches.

These are prepared for both instructors and students.

The charge is approximately 100 crowns per month per head, and entitles the subscriber to the single, noon meal.

It is not obligatory.

Number of Hours Taught

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per Day.

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Six hours per day on the average; occasionally 7 hours.

May 1958. University of.BRATISLAVA.

General

Not all the faculties are together in the same building. Under the Rectorate, located in a building near the bridge over the Danube, are the following faculties:

philosophy

law

natural sciences (with specialization in botany and physics).

pharmacy

medicine

geology and geography.

Location of the Various Faculties.

Philosophy and law: in the same building in which the Rectorate is located.

Natural sciences (both botany and physics): one on ~~the old~~ Moskovska Street, and another on ~~the old~~ MARKOVIC Street.

Pharmacy and medicine: on ~~the old~~ BENES Street.

Geology and geography: in a new building, the location of which is unknown

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Number of Years Required by Each Faculty.

Philosophy: 4 years, (5 years for specialization).

Law: 4 years.

Medicine: 5 years, (6 years for specialization).

Pharmacy: 4 or 5 years (he does not remember).

Natural sciences: 4 years, (5 years for specialization).

Geology and geography: 5 years.

Enrollment in Each Faculty.

Sciences: 400, for all four years of the course.

Medicine: 600-700 for all five years.

Philosophy: 400-500, for all four years.

Allocation of Students to the Various Faculties.

The students are not entirely at liberty to choose a faculty.

The State guides the young people in their choice; and, when exigency demands, it will redistribute quotas among the faculties most vitally concerned.

A case in point arose at the end of the war, when the country experienced a shortage of physicians and engineers. The State issued appropriate directions to the various rectors that they should oppose all enrollments not compatible with the national needs.

At present, there is still an acutely-felt shortage of graduates in economics, jurisprudence, and electronics. Not a few students have been sent to the USSR to take courses leading to specialization in the field of electronics.

Military Instruction at the University.

Military instruction is included in the curriculum. One day a week is devoted to this subject.

The instructors are former field-grade and company-grade officers, who give theoretical-practical courses in the following subjects:

tactics

infantry weapons

artillery

armored vehicles

topography

principles of ABC (atomic, biological, and chemical) defense.

As in all other courses, an examination is given in the course of military instruction.

Weapons and materiel used in demonstrations for the students are old models, but answer the purpose adequately.

It has been mentioned that, since 1956, university students have not been able to profit by the former favorable arrangements for students, and

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are consequently forced to serve the full military service term once they have completed their studies.

Assignments to the various technical branches of the army are made with the object of utilizing special technical skills acquired by each young graduate through his studies.

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